

Friday, February 11, 2011

Sam Drzymala: 202-226-4661(o), 202-674-0594(c)

Sara Howard: 314-962-1523(o), 314-650-3286(c)

Offers Motion Instructing Committees to Prioritize Safety Standards, Urges Refocus on Job-Creation Measures

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – In a speech today on the House Floor, Rep. Russ Carnahan (MO-3) called on Congress to move quickly to a legislative agenda focused on creating good-paying jobs for Missourians and all Americans while prioritizing safety standards that protect families, communities and businesses.

Carnahan offered a “Motion to Recommit With Instructions,” a procedural step to try to strengthen legislation that directs committees to review various government regulations. Carnahan’s motion would have directed committees to maintain safety standards that keep the nation’s food supply, drinking water and children’s toys safe.

The text of Carnahan's speech follows:

Congressman Russ Carnahan (D-MO)

On Safety Regulations

February 11, 2011

****As Delivered****

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

We've just spent the past two days telling Committees to do their jobs. Why aren't we focusing on creating jobs for the American people?

Let me be clear: I'm in favor of a strong and vigorous debate on cutting red tape and finding bipartisan solutions to our nation's problems.

But to pretend that common-sense oversight measures to protect families and businesses are inherently burdensome, without benefit, fails to acknowledge the financial disaster that was brought upon this country by greed and corruption on Wall Street. It fails to acknowledge the disaster of the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. It fails to acknowledge toxic toys and drywall imported from China. It fails to acknowledge the increase in deadly food borne illness from lax oversight of our food safety system. And it fails to acknowledge what the American people want us to work on right now: creating good-paying jobs so they can feed their families.

I believe that we all want what is best for the people we represent and we often have different ideas about getting there. But to structure a debate that is so one-sided that attempts to gloss over the very events that created this recession is not serving the American people. Let's look at the entire picture.

I will be offering a motion to recommit that will ensure we place a high priority on protecting the safety of America's food supply, safe drinking water, and the safety of children's toys.

This is and should be an essential function of our nation's government. Just last year, cadmium, a known carcinogen, was found in amounts in excess of 90% in children's bracelets imported from China. This stuff happens all the time; and without strong oversight and common-sense regulations, **American children would continue to be at risk.**

I don't believe any of my colleagues are against protecting public health and ensuring that we are doing our duty as elected officials to protect our constituents.

That's why I'd like to reach out to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and ask them to join me in this motion to recommit which will instruct House committees to make the health and safety of our families a priority.

Preserving common-sense safety standards are just as important as reforming overly-burdensome regulations.

Let's work together to help create the environment that protects our citizens. And let's move quickly to the jobs agenda that Americans want and deserve.

Americans are still waiting for this House to take up the jobs agenda.

###

